



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Thursday, March 09, 2018

Issued: 0800 CT

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

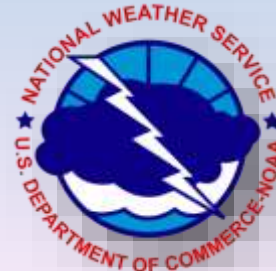
Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

Slight risk of severe storms from E OK through AR and NE LA this afternoon and evening; hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes possible.

Isolated heavy rain/flash flooding possible mainly over SE AR later today and tonight.

Critical fire weather conditions expected this afternoon over E NM, W & NW TX.

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Jennifer McNatt
817-978-1100 x 147

Key Points



Today

- Slight risk of severe thunderstorms from E OK through AR and NE LA; damaging winds, hail and isolated tornadoes all possible
- Isolated heavy rain/flash flooding possible across mainly SE AR later today/tonight
- Critical fire weather conditions across E NM, S & NW TX this afternoon

Sunday

- Strong/severe storms possible across S LA; hail & damaging winds are the main threats
- Snow expected in the higher elevations of NM

Monday - Wednesday

- No significant weather expected

River Flood Status

- Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.
- The Ouachita River in S AR / N LA is cresting or forecast to crest in moderate to major flood during the next week.
- The crest on the MS River is at Tunica, MS. The flood wave will continue to move downstream in the coming weeks.
- The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach moderate flood stage on 3/23.

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Mar 10, 2018 through Mar 14, 2018

DAY / THREAT	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Severe Storms	E OK, AR, NE LA	S LA			
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding	SE AR				
Fire Weather	E NM, W & NW TX				
Winter		Higher elevations of NM			
River Flooding	E & S AR, N, E & SE LA				
	E TX, LA, AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.



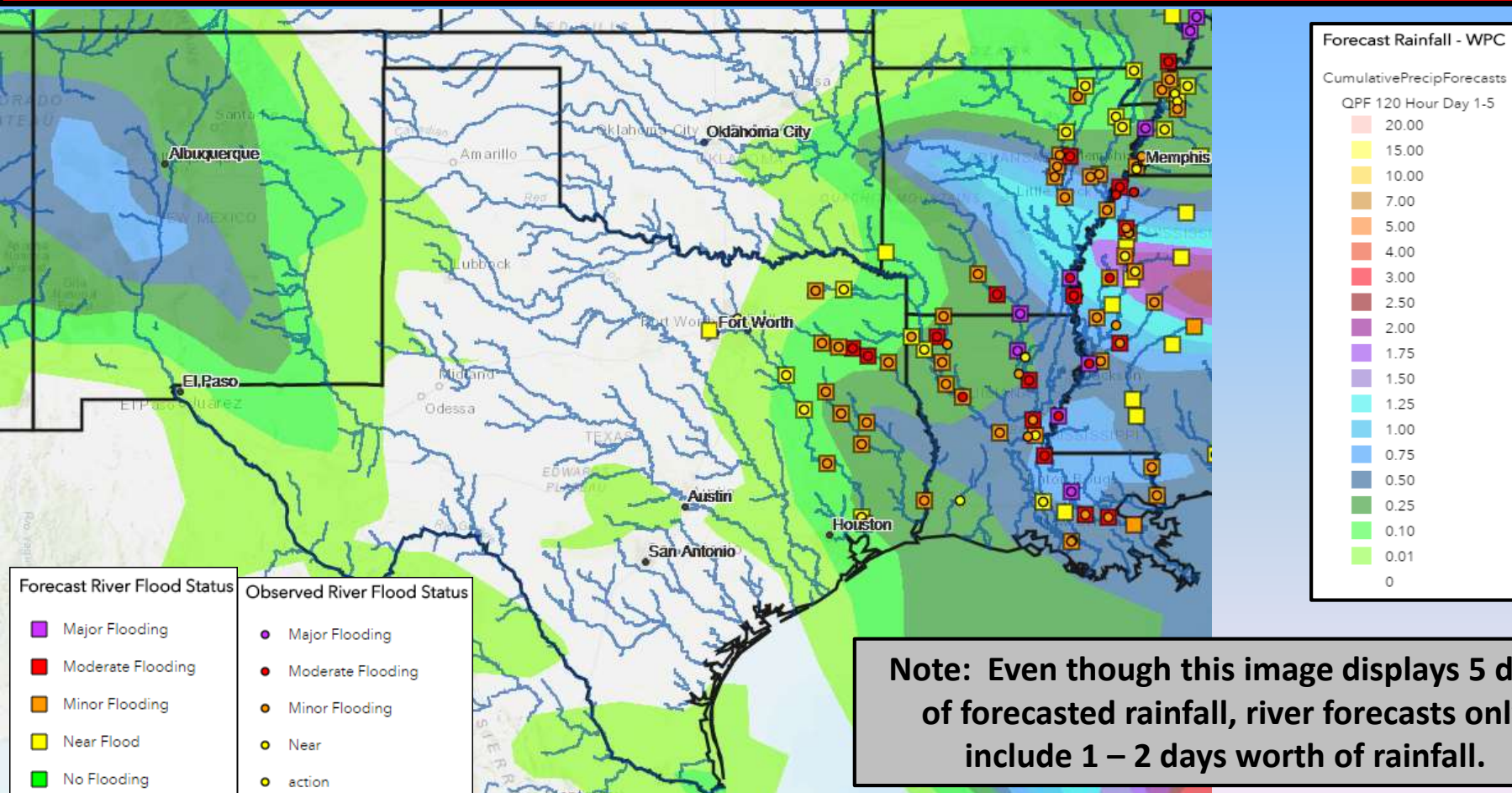
5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

The Ouachita River in S AR / N LA is cresting or forecast to crest in moderate to major flood during the next week.

The crest on the MS River is at Tunica, MS. The flood wave will continue to move downstream in the coming weeks.

The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach moderate flood stage on 3/23.



See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding

Latest on the Mississippi River

From Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



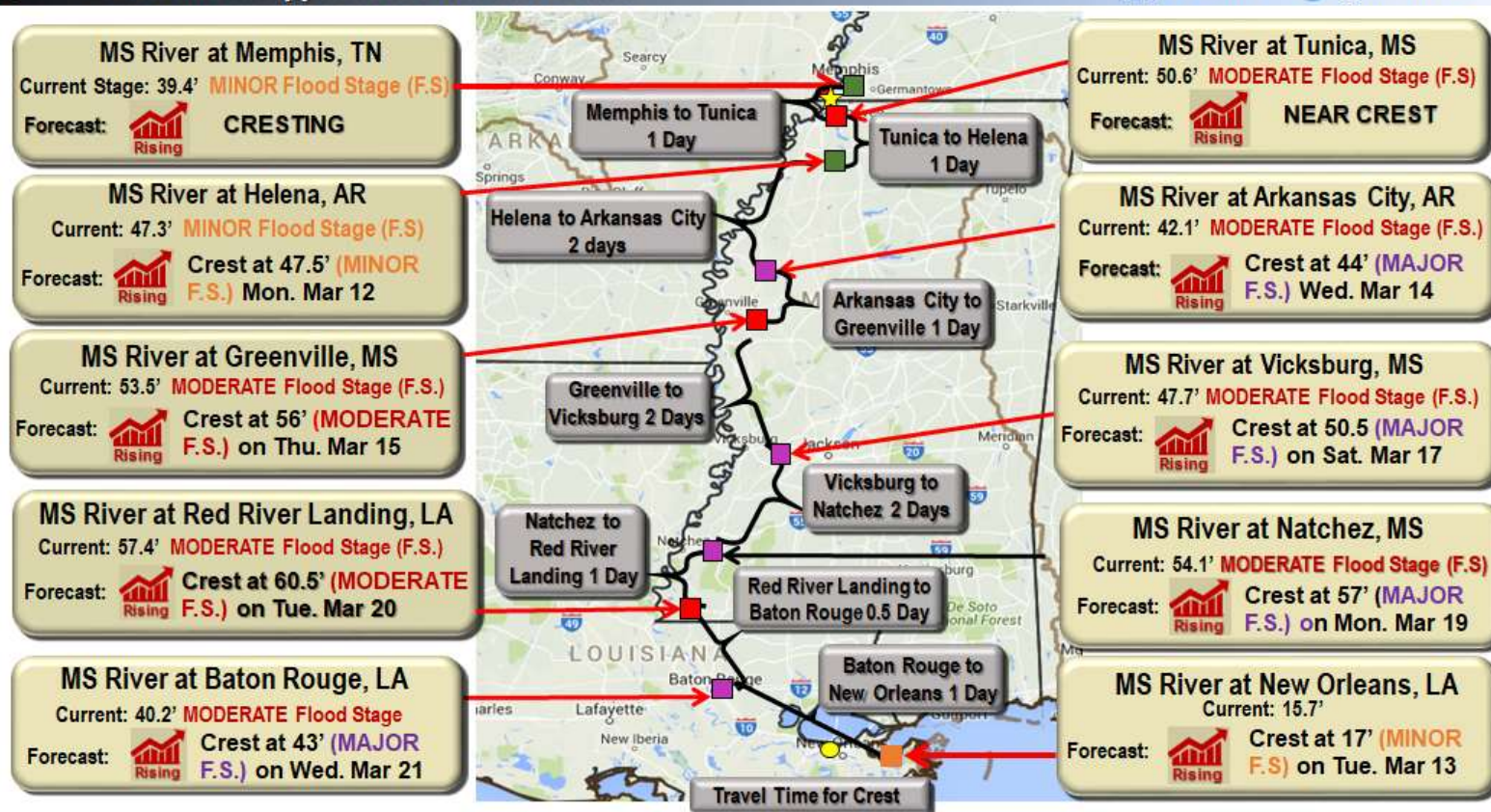
Mississippi River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 9, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



★ Location of Mississippi River Crest Today ● Forecast Assumes operation at Bonnet Carré

Latest on the Atchafalaya River

From Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



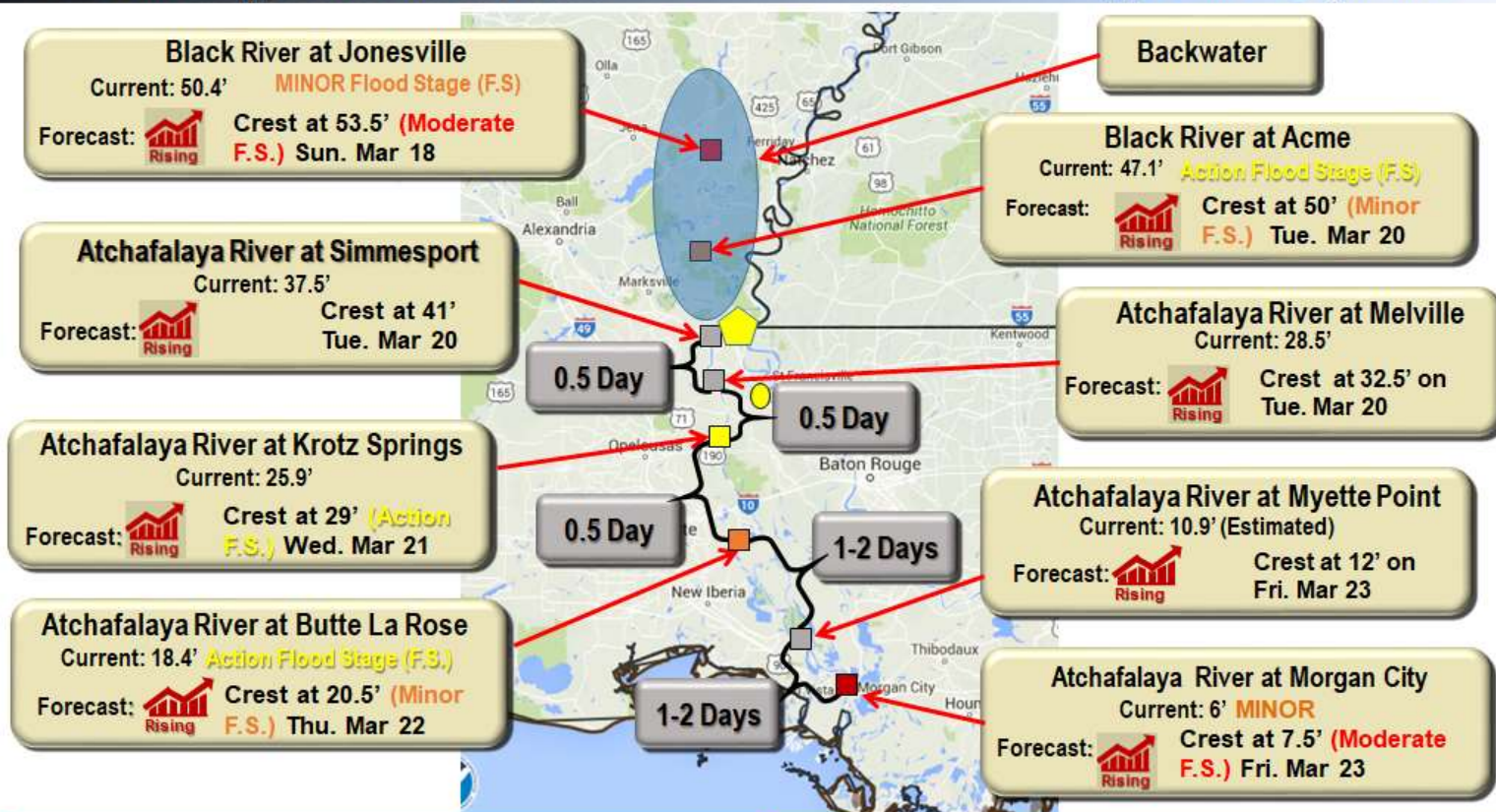
Atchafalaya River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 9, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



Yellow pentagon: Old River Control Structure
Yellow circle: Forecast assumes no operation at Morganza

Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure

Latest on the Ouachita River

From Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



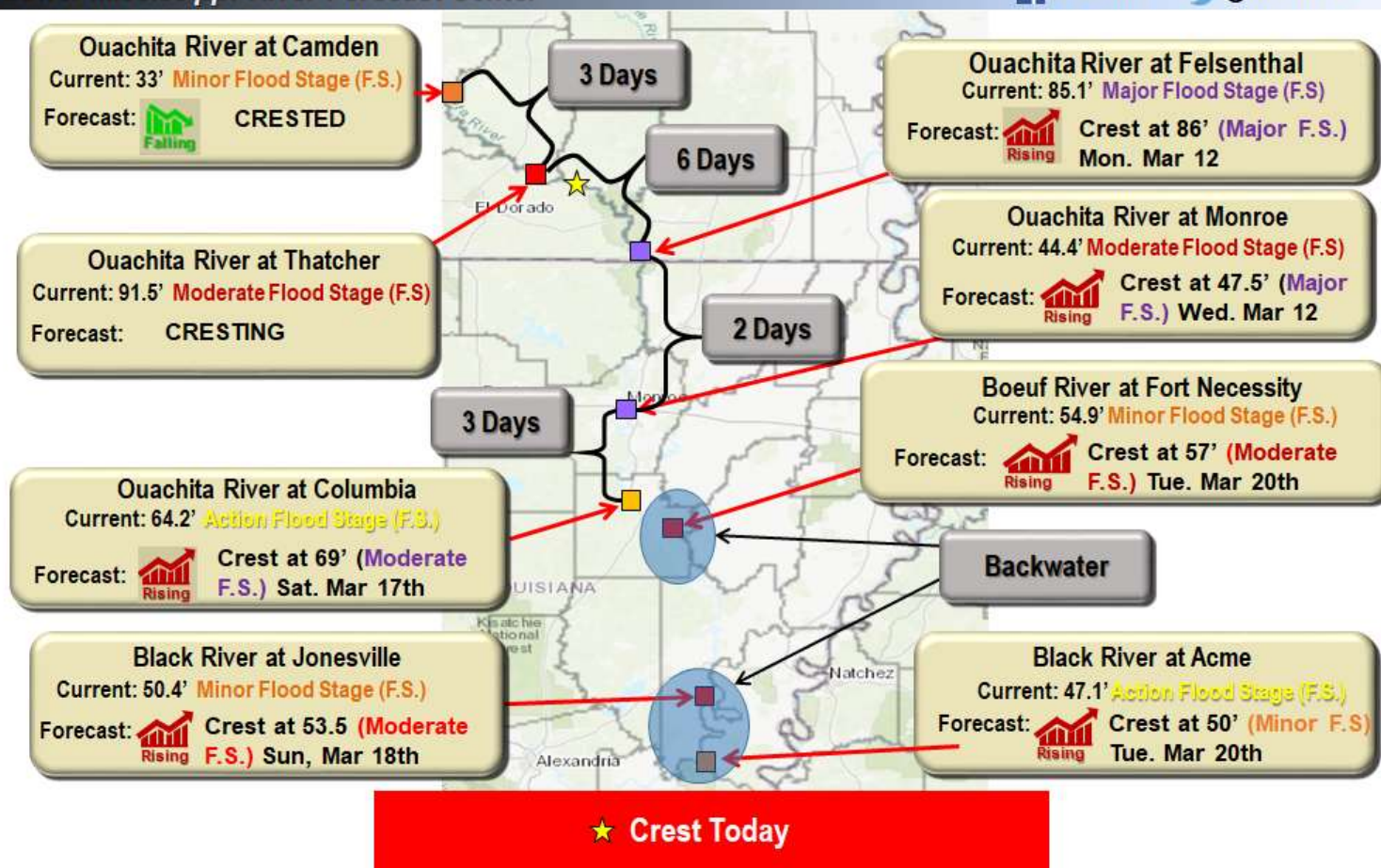
Ouachita River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

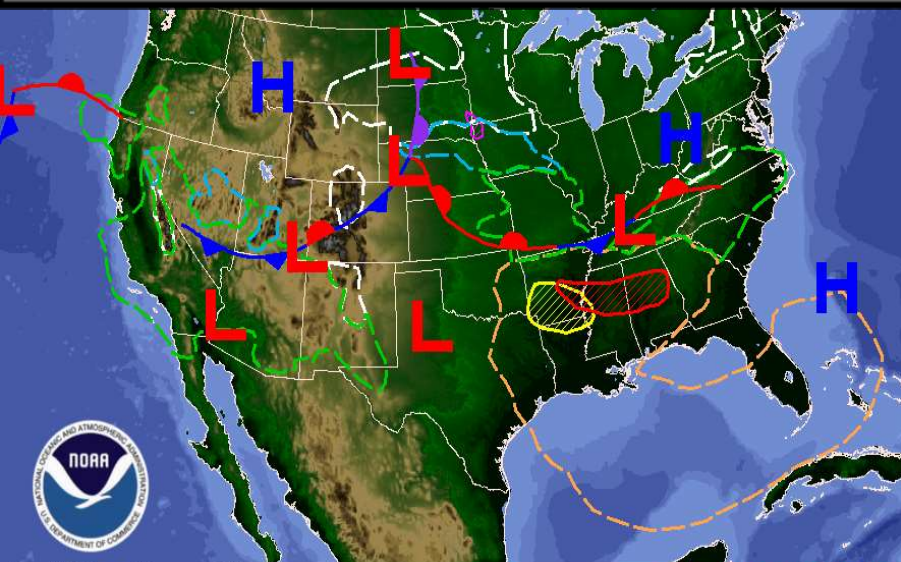
Crests and LMRFC forecasts
produced morning of March 9, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



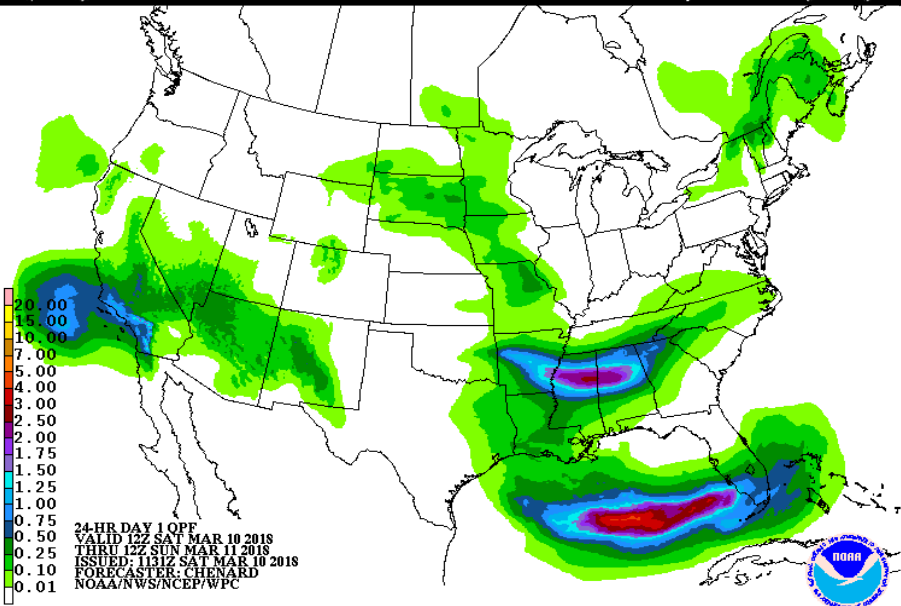
Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Mar 10, 2018, issued 4:05 AM EST
 DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
 Prepared by Orrison with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
 Rain and T'Storms
 Rain and Snow
 Snow
 Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
 Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
 Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
 Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

Slight risk of severe storms from E OK through AR and NE LA this afternoon and evening; hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes possible.

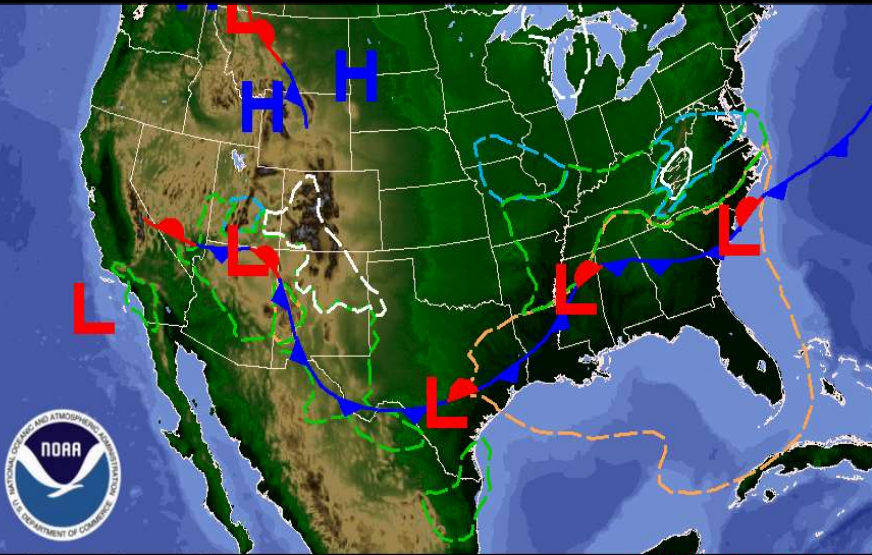
Isolated heavy rain/flash flooding possible mainly over SE AR later today and tonight.

Critical fire weather conditions expected this afternoon over E NM, W & NW TX.

Severe Weather Outlook Saturday, March 10, 2018



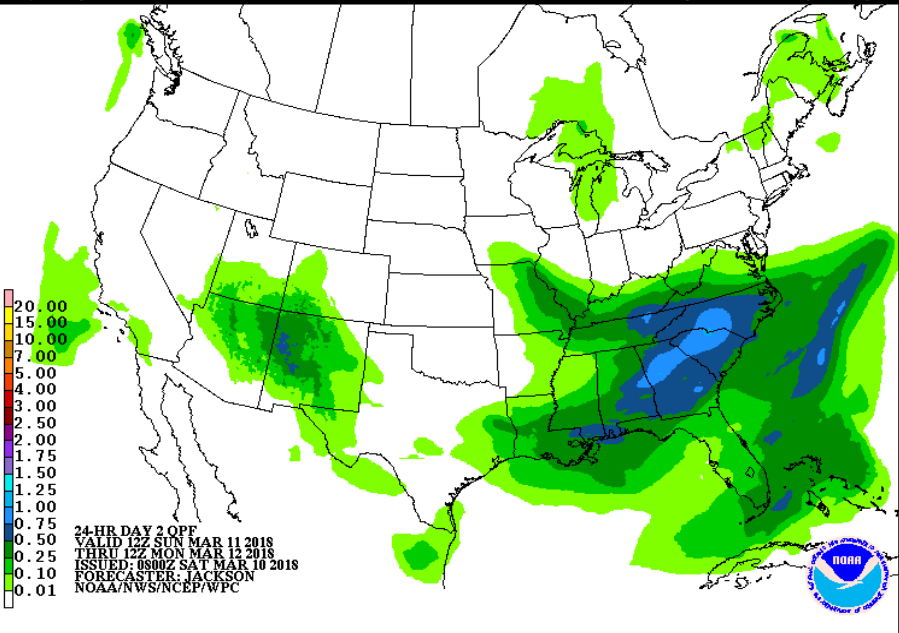
Tomorrow's Weather



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 11, 2018, issued 4:08 AM EST Sat, Mar 10, 2018
 DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
 Prepared by Orrison with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
 Rain and T'Storms
 Rain and Snow
 Snow
 Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
 Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
 Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
 Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24-HR DAY 2 OPI
 VALID 12Z SUN MAR 11 2018
 THRU 12Z MON MAR 12 2018
 ISSUED 0800Z SAT MAR 10 2018
 FORECASTER: JACKSON
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

A few strong storms possible across S LA; hail and damaging winds are the main threats.

A few inches of snow expected in the higher elevations of NM.

Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 8

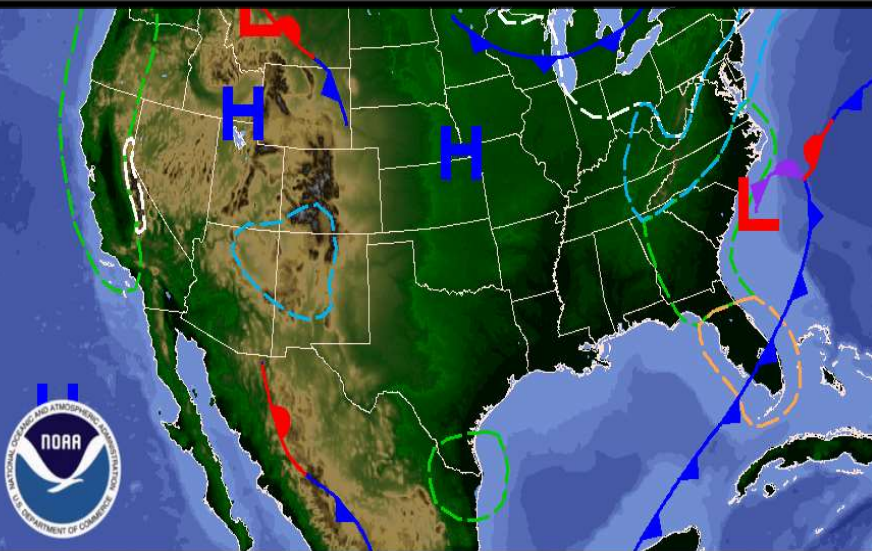
Severe Weather Outlook Sunday, March 11, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 09 2018 11:12 PM CST
 Valid 0001Z Mar 12 2018 0700 AM CDT



NOAA
 National Weather Service
 Storm Prediction Center
 http://www.spc.noaa.gov

Monday's Weather



Moderate to major flooding expected on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

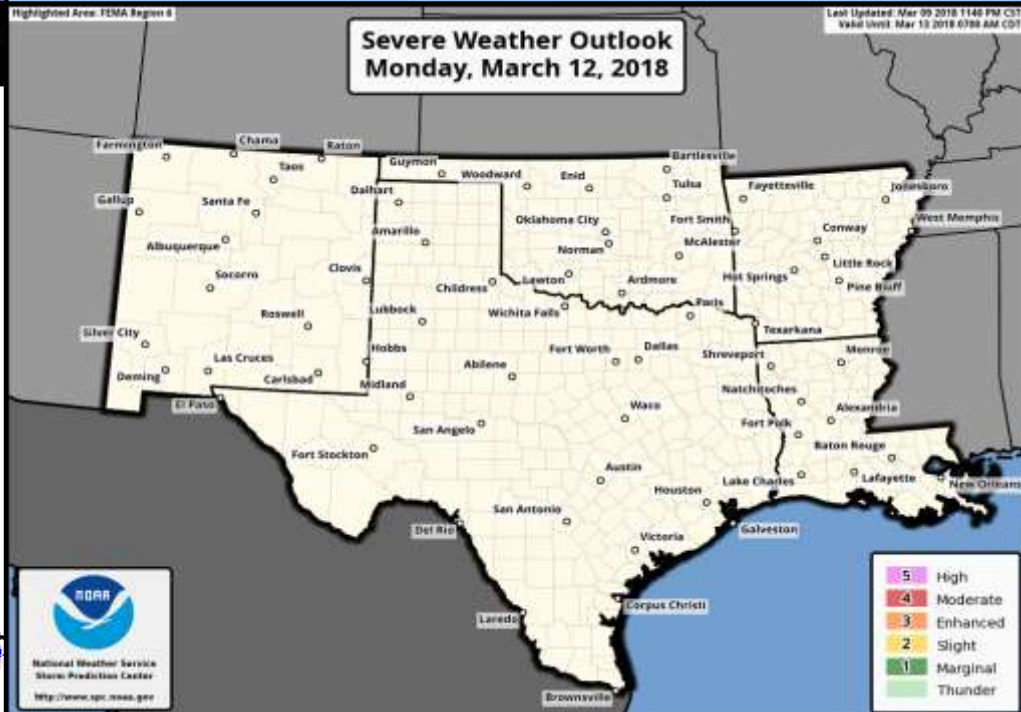
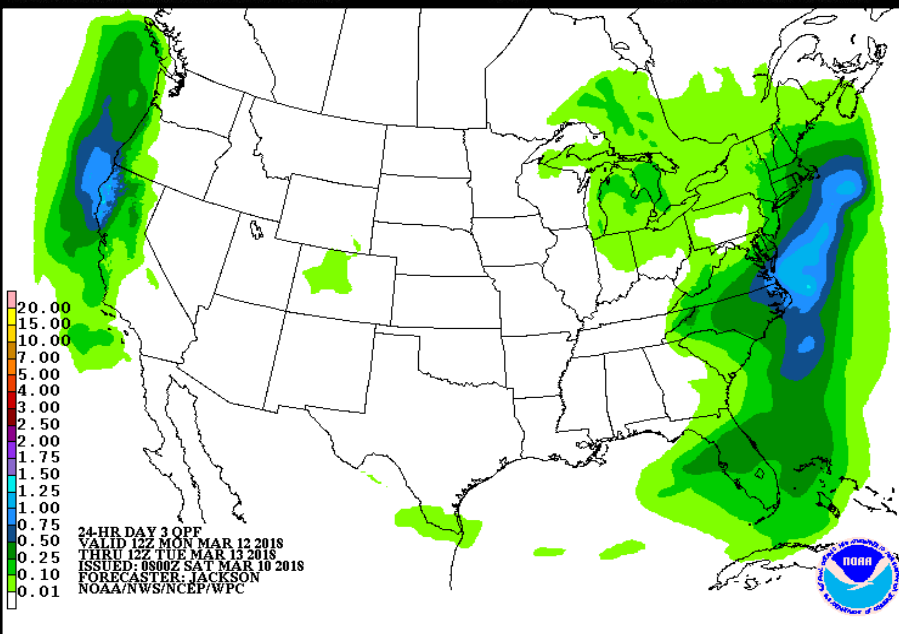
Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

No significant weather expected.

Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 12, 2018, issued 4:03 AM EST Sat, Mar 10, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hamrick with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

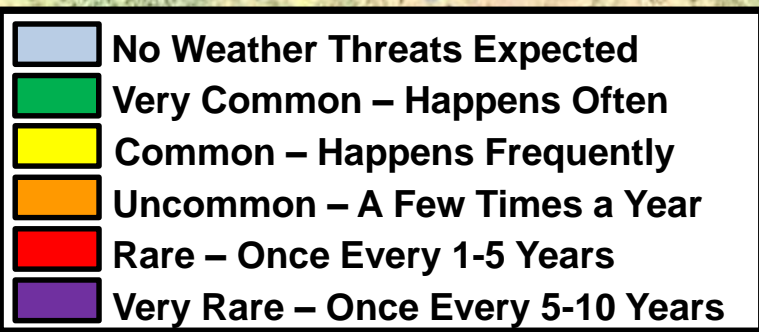


Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Tuesday - Wednesday



**No significant
weather expected**

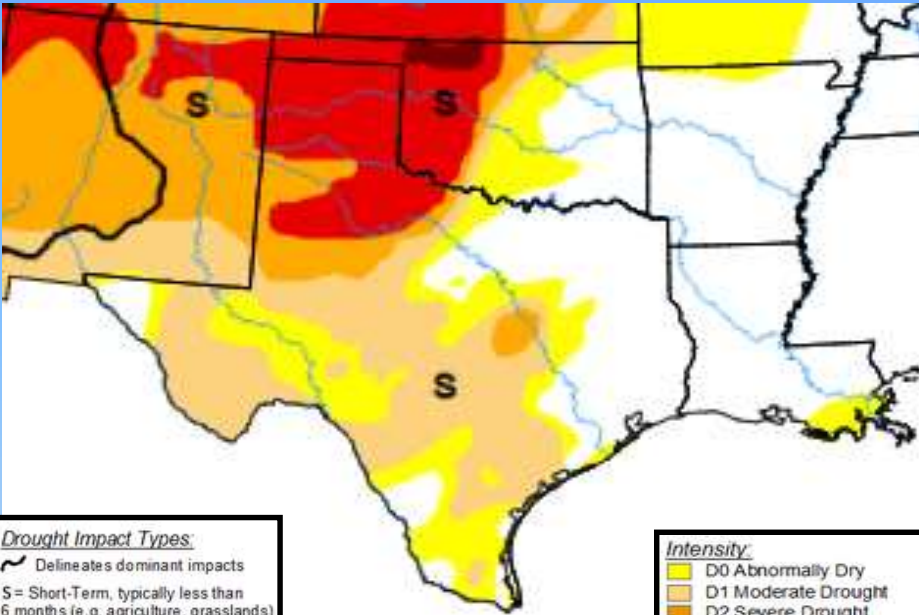


***Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.**



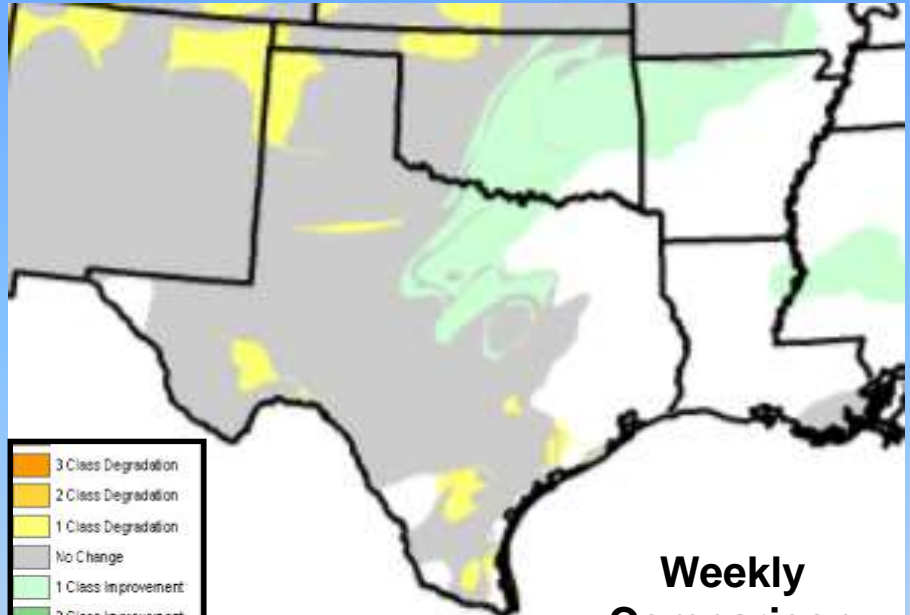
Drought Monitor Released March 8, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 6, 2018



Drought Impact Types:
~ Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought



3 Class Degradation
2 Class Degradation
1 Class Degradation
No Change
1 Class Improvement
2 Class Improvement
3 Class Improvement

**Weekly
Comparison**

Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)				
State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	14.66%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.45%	32.91%	0.78%	3.17%
Texas	14.16%	11.47%	0.00%	0.00%
New Mexico	17.08%	5.23%	0.00%	0.00%

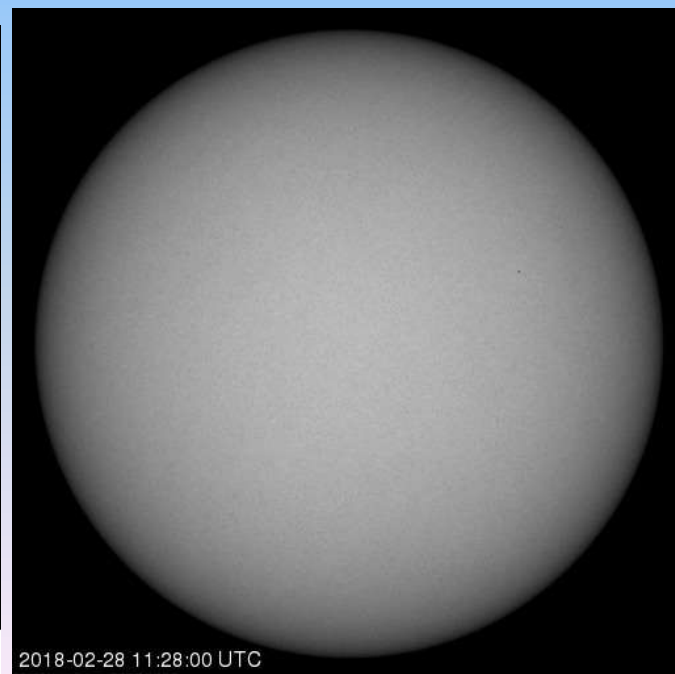
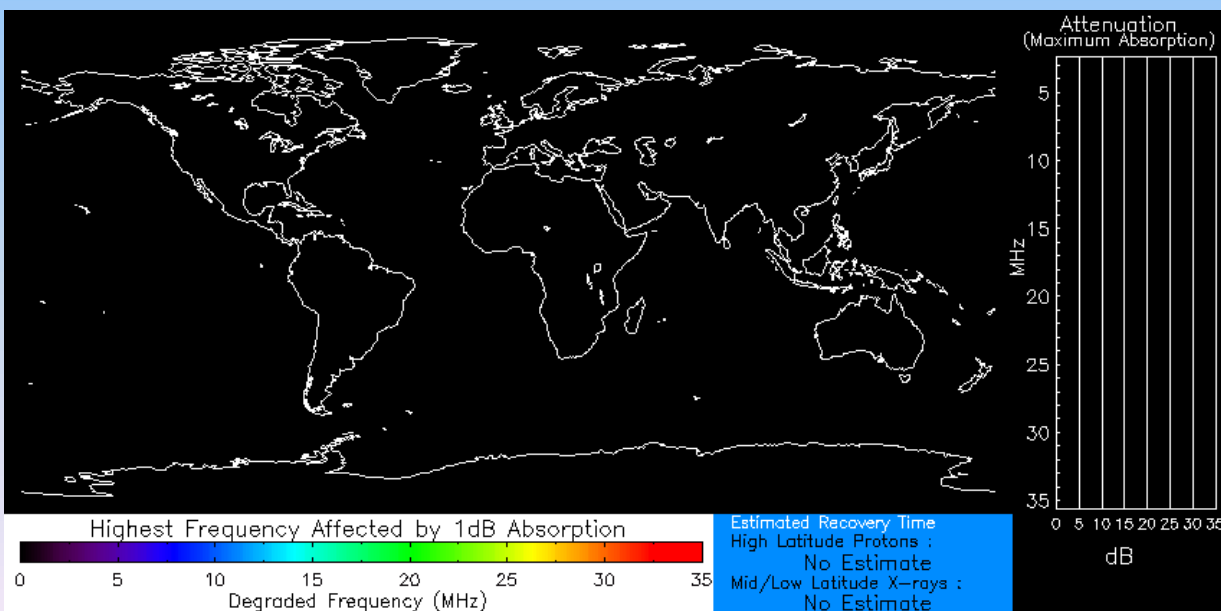
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Geomagnetic Storms	Quiet to Active (Max Kp = 4)	Quiet (Max Kp = 2)	Quiet (Max Kp = 2)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2018-03-10 12:59 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

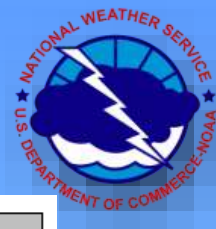
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms